

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Claims 1-18 (Canceled)

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): A method of manufacturing a fuel injector, comprising:

providing a valve group subassembly comprising:

a tube assembly having a longitudinal axis extending between a first end and a second end, the tube assembly including an inlet tube having an inlet tube face;

a seat secured at the second end of the tube assembly, the seat defining an opening;

an armature assembly disposed within the tube assembly, the armature assembly having an armature face that confronts the inlet tube face across a working gap, at least one of the armature face and the inlet tube face having a first portion generally oblique to the longitudinal axis;

a member biasing the armature assembly toward the seat;

an adjusting tube located in the tube assembly, the adjusting tube engaging the member and adjusting a biasing force of the member;

a filter assembly located in the tube assembly, the filter assembly engaging the member and adjusting a biasing force of the member; and

a first attaching portion;

providing a coil group subassembly including:

a solenoid coil operable to displace the armature assembly with respect to the seat; and

a second attaching portion;

inserting the valve group subassembly into the coil group subassembly; and

connecting the first and second attaching portions together.

Claim 20 (Original): The method according to claim 19, wherein the armature includes at least one radial facing surface, the method further comprising:

masking the at least one radial facing surface; and

hardening the armature face.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): A fuel injector for use with an internal combustion engine, the fuel injector comprising:

- a valve group subassembly including:

- a tube assembly having a longitudinal axis extending between a first end and a second end;

- a seat secured at the second end of the tube assembly, the seat defining an opening;

- an armature assembly disposed within the tube assembly, the armature assembly having an armature face that confronts the inlet tube face across a working gap, at least one of the armature face and the inlet tube face having a first portion generally oblique to the longitudinal axis;

- a member biasing the armature assembly toward the seat;

- a filter assembly located in the tube assembly, the filter assembly engaging the member and adjusting a biasing force of the member;

- a crush ring disposed within the tube assembly proximate the seat;

- a first attaching portion; and

- a coil group subassembly including:

- a solenoid coil operable to displace the armature assembly with respect to the seat; and

- a second attaching portion fixedly connected to the first attaching portion.